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Secretariat for World Peace Corps Is Formed

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An International Peace Corps Secretariat to assist in the establishment of domestic peace corps throughout the undeveloped world is now being organized and will start functioning soon.

Creation of the Secretariat was approved by the 43 countries that attended the International Conference on Human Skills held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, last October.

Richard Goodwin, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs, will be Secretary General of the new organization, which will be based here. Citizens from other member countries are expected to make up the remainder of the staff.

The Secretariat is being formed on a trial basis for a year, after which members will decide whether they want it to function permanently.

Functions of Secretariat

It will furnish interested nations with experts in recruitment, selection, training and project development, and will provide information on the progress and experience of volunteers so that national

programs can be perfected. It will establish one or more model training projects for volunteers going abroad, and arrange with international lending agencies for the financing of such Peace Corps ventures.

American, Japanese, and West European youths will be encouraged to help in the training of nationals of underdeveloped countries selected to work in their own domestic peace corps.

Many of these nationals will teach other potential corpsmen in their countries the duties expected of them within national development programs.

In some cases, American volunteers with Peace Corps experience will train persons from other developed countries in methods of instruction.

Regional Corps Studied

Although the peace corps established by underdeveloped countries will be largely needed for projects at home, when feasible the corpsmen of one such nation may be sent to assist in the programs of other states.

Thus, Argentina has already inaugurated a program for the dispatch of teachers to neigh-

boring Latin American countries with a shortage of teachers.

At the same time, the Central American countries of Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua, which are moving toward economic integration as a stepping stone to political unity, are considering the possibility of setting up a single regional peace corps. Panama might also join it.

A secondary purpose of the Secretariat will be to encourage private enterprise, both labor and management, to make available its training facilities and knowhow to nationals of underdeveloped countries not employed by the companies.

The Secretariat has already won the cooperation of several American firms through the Business Council for International Understanding. These companies plan to establish two or three pilot training centers for industrial skills in the Dominican Republic and other nations.

No underdeveloped nations have yet formed peace corps of

their own, but some have made a start. Under a program called Operation Brotherhood, the Philippines is using volunteers at home and in other Asian countries to assist in educational, agricultural, and community development projects.

Israeli technicians are now helping to set up a domestic corps in the Central African Republic. Iranian officials have indicated that an "educational" corps will soon be established in Iran. Jamaica ministers have proposed that a domestic peace corps be organized soon.

The United States has agreed to meet administrative expenses for the first experimental year, with other countries contributing only personnel. Expenses are expected to be about \$150,000 until the end of the present fiscal year in June.